

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1219

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Roxie McClendon upon her induction into the Rockwood Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Roxie McClendon, who was recently inducted into the Rockwood Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Rockwood Hall of Fame exists to recognize, celebrate, and honor those exemplary individuals who have distinguished themselves through their success in public service, honorable military service, professional accomplishments, contributions to the community, and personal achievements, and Mrs. McClendon's lifetime of excellence in all her endeavors is surely deserving of such recognition; and

WHEREAS, a native of the Poplar Springs community of Roane County, Roxie McClendon was born on January 30, 1903, the fifth child of a family of nine children; and

WHEREAS, her family moved to Rockwood, Tennessee, in 1911, and young Roxie began working in a hosiery mill at the age of eleven to help support her family; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 1922, she was joined in marriage with Charles Sanders McClendon, and they built their home in 1924, where Mrs. McClendon would live until 2005; and

WHEREAS, the McClendons celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary shortly before Charles McClendon passed away in October of 1987 at the venerable age of eighty-seven; and

WHEREAS, the couple's blessed union produced three sons, Ray, Billy, and Paul Ed; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McClendon continued to work in the hosiery mill for thirty-seven years, demonstrating the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity throughout her long record of

service; she also proved to be an invaluable employee of Brown's Laundry and Cleaners, where she provided exemplary service for a period of ten years; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of her community, Roxie McClendon is known as a wise and loving mentor, neighbor, and friend; and

WHEREAS, recognized as one of the oldest newspaper columnists in the world, Roxie McClendon, at the age of seventy-five, began writing a Society Column for *The Rockwood Times*, featuring the social lives of everyday people in her community; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, she has been declared a Golden Treasure for Roane County on Founder's Day 2007, and, in a testament to the high regard in which her community holds her, a scholarship has been established in her name at Roane State Community College; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout member of Eureka Baptist Church, which she has served faithfully for a remarkable eighty-eight years, Roxie McClendon is very likely this country's oldest active member of the Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, as an example of her strong commitment to her faith and for her concern for others, Mrs. McClendon established the McClendon Mission Fund, in conjunction with the Baptist Foundation, in 1987; and

WHEREAS, possessing a vitality and a zest for life that is extraordinary for a person of any age, in 2004, at the age of 101, she baked and cooked for nearly everyone in her community, preparing an astonishing total of 800 cookies and 200 apple pies; and

WHEREAS, well into her 11th decade, Mrs. McClendon continues to be an active and vital member of her community, participating in various civic and community events, as her health permits; she credits her longevity to hard work and the Good Lord; and

WHEREAS, Roxie McClendon epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Roxie McClendon for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Roxie McClendon upon her induction into the Rockwood Hall of Fame, honor and commend her for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.